

**SECRET****PRIORITY 1**

OUT64644

1968 MAR 22 22 23Z

S E C R E T 222201Z MAR 68 CITE [ ] 3297

OXCART

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF BLACK SHIELD MISSION BX6856

1. CAMERA TYPE 1 (115-A) UNIT C, WAS USED ON MISSION BX 6856 FLOWN 8 MARCH 68.

2. BOTH CAMERAS OPERATED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION EXCEPT BETWEEN FRAMES 45 TO 72 AND FRAMES 786 TO 794. BANDING PARALLEL TO THE SLIT APERTURE IS PRESENT IN FRAMES 45 THROUGH 72. SIMILAR BANDING PATTERNS APPEAR 86 INCHES APART. THIS PHENOMENON IS MORE APPARENT IN THE AFT FRAMES ALTHOUGH DETECTABLE IN SOME FORWARD FRAMES. THE VEHICLE IS IN A 30 DEGREE ROLL AT THIS POINT AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE G-FORCES ON THE CAMERA MAY HAVE AFFECTED FILM VELOCITY. FRAMES 786 AND 787 ARE 2 DEGREES LONGER THAN NORMAL; FRAME 788 IS 0.5 DEGREE LONGER THAN NORMAL; FRAMES 790 AND 791 ARE 0.5 DEGREE SHORTER THAN NORMAL. THIS ERRATIC CAMERA OPERATION RESULTED IN FRAMES OVERLAPPING AND DATA BLOCKS IMAGING IN FORMATS.

3. RESOLUTION IS APPROXIMATELY [ ] (BAR-PLUS-SPACE)

DISTRIBUTION		
Cy No.	Office	Action
1	File	25X1
	Cable Sec.	
	PP&B	
	Security	
	INR	
	IS	
	DISSEM	
	SPAD	
	[ ]	25X1
	DIA-AP	25X1

PAGE 2 [ ] 3297 S E C R E T  
IN THE NEAR VERTICAL PORTIONS OF THE FORMAT.

4. THERE IS A BLUE DISCOLORATION (ASSOCIATED WITH THE LACQUERING PROCESS) BETWEEN ALL FRAMES. THIS DISCOLORATION IS APPROXIMATELY 1.0 INCH WIDE AND EXTENDS ACROSS THE FILM BETWEEN FRAMES.

5. FRAME 762 CONTAINS NUMEROUS EMULSION LIFTS.

6. FRAME 763 CONTAINS A PLUS DENSITY BAND APPROXIMATELY 2.0 INCHES WIDE EXTENDING ACROSS THE FORMAT (ALONG THE LINE OF FLIGHT) 2.0 INCHES FROM THE DATA END OF THE FRAME.

7. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE TITLING WAS REMOVED AND RETITLED BETWEEN FRAMES 775 AND 940.

8. FOG IS PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY ALONG THE DATA END OF FRAMES 834-942. THE FOG ENTERS THE FORMAT A MAXIMUM OF 1.5 INCHES.

9. HEAT SPLICES ARE PRESENT BETWEEN FRAMES 391/394 AND 927/930. FRAME 1102 CONTAINS AN ULTRA-SONIC SPLICE.

10. NO APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IN IMAGE QUALITY IS NOTED BETWEEN THE ZERO PRIORITY REPRODUCTIONS AND THE ZI REPRODUCTIONS.

11. THIS IS THE FIRST MISSION WHICH HAS THE INDEX MARK FOR USE TO REGISTER THE UNIVERSAL GRID. THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE

Advance Copy  
Sanitized  
With Text

25X1

PAGE 3 [ ] 3297 S E C R E T

HEAD AND TAIL IDENTIS ARE NOT THE INSTRUCTIONS TO BE USED WHEN THE INDEX MARK IS USED. WHEN THE INDEX MARK IS IN THE FORMAT, IT DEGRADES THE IMAGERY.

12. THE PRIMARY TARGET AREA WAS APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT CLOUD FREE. THE BALANCE OF THE MISSION WAS ABOUT 40 PERCENT CLOUD FREE.

S E C R E T

-- END OF MESSAGE --

**SECRET**GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification